

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00968 051334Z

47

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00 /088 W

----- 110205

P R 051245Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5727

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 0619

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0968

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BY, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLICY OF NEW BURUNDI REGIME

1. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED THE HIGH LEVEL MISSIONS WHICH NEW BURUNDI REGIME HAS SENT TO DAR ES SALAAM AND KIGALI TO REASSURE NEIGHBORS OF ITS FRIENDLIEST INTENTIONS. SIMILAR MISSION WILL GO IN DAY OR TWO TO KINSHASA, AS SOON AS MOBUTU RETURNS. RETURN VISIT BY RWANDAN DELEGATION UNDER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HABYARIMANA PRESIDENCY HAS BEEN AIMED AT FURTHER MUTUAL REASSURANCE. IN GESTURE TO ZAIRE, NEW RULERS HAVE PRIVATELY ASKED ZAIRE TO SEND PARTY EXPERTS FROM MPR TO HELP REBUILD UPRONA PARTY HERE INTO EFFECTIVE MASS MOVEMENT. (EMBASSY KINSHASA MAY RAISE A SKEPTICAL EYEBROW AT THE EFFICACY OF THIS HELP, BUT IT IS BETTER THAN ASKING THE NORTH KOREANS, WHICH OLD REGIME HAD DONE AT TIMES.) ZAIRE AMBASSADOR IS APPARENTLY ONLY RESIDENT CHIEF OF MISSION WHO IS BEING GIVEN DIRECT INTERVIEW WITH BAGAZA (OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF NEW RULING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00968 051334Z

COUNCIL).

2. REST OF US WERE SUMMONED NOVEMBER 4 ONE BY ONE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY TO BE TOLD BY ACTING CHIEF THAT BURUNDI'S FOREIGN POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH EVERYONE WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNCHANGED. BELGIANS AND FRENCH WERE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE ON AS BEFORE AND WERE ASSURED OF THEIR "PRIVILEGED RELATIONS" WITH BURUNDI. OTHERS WERE JUST TOLD THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE EVEN TO INCREASE BILATERAL COOPERATION. MESSAGE FOR U.S. WAS THAT NEW RULERS WERE PLEASED BY RECENTLY IMPROVED RELATIONS AND GRATIFIED THAT AID PLANNING TEAM FOR AID PROJECT HAD MOVED SO QUICKLY TO VISIT BURUNDI. (THIS IS IN FACT THE FONOFF BUREAUCRACY TALKING, BECAUSE I AM SURE THAT BAGAZA AND COMPANY HAVE HAD NO TIME TO GET INTO OPERATIONAL DETAILS.)

3. BOTH FRENCH AND BELGIANS PROBED VERY DIRECTLY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY INFLUENCE FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BEHIND THE COUP, AND THEY WERE ASSURED (QUITE CORRECTLY IN OUR VIEW) THAT THAT WAS A PREPOSTEROUS IDEA, SINCE THE MOTIVATIONS HAD ALL BEEN DOMESTIC.

4. FRENCH AND GERMANS ALSO TOOK UP QUESTION OF BURUNDI'S ACTIVISM IN SUBSCRIBING TO ANTI-WESTERN DIATRIBES AT UNGA AND IN OTHER UN ORGANS (SPECIFICALLY THINKING OF SOME RECENT RESOLUTION ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA, BUT NOT VETOED SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION). FRENCH WARNED THAT THIS COULD SERIOUSLY HARM BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CONTINUATION OF AID. I TOLD MY COLLEAGUES THAT, UP TO NOW, I HAD THOUGHT U.S. HAD BEEN ONLY COUNTRY TO PUSH BURUNDI ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, AND I WAS VERY GLAD TO HAVE COMPANY.

6. ALTHOUGH BBC AND OTHER FOREIGN RADIOS HAVE REFERRED TO COLONEL BAGAZA AS NEW CHIEF OF STATE, HE HAS NOT ASSUMED THAT TITLE, NOR HAS ANYONE ELSE YET. SOME LOCAL LEADERS, SEEKING TO CURRY HIS FAVOR, HAVE CALLED FOR HIM TO ASSUME PRESIDENCY, BUT IT IS NOT YET CLEAR THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN.

7. WHEN EITHER BAGAZA OR ONE OF OTHER MILITARY TAKES TITLE, DEPARTMENT WILL FACE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO SEND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE. PERHAPS WE HAVE POLICY OF NOT PRAISING LEADERS WHO TAKE OVER THROUGH COUPS D'ETAT, AND IF SO, THAT WILL SETTLE QUESTION. BUT, IF WE CAN BE FLEXIBLE, I WOULD FAVOR IT IN THIS CASE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUJUMB 00968 051334Z

BESIDES CONGRATULATIONS ON ACCESSION TO HIGH OFFICE, MESSAGE COULD FOCUS ON OUR HOPE FOR STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN LOT OF ALL BURUNDIANS AND FOR CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL UNITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE OF WHICH NEW GOVERNMENT HAS SPOKEN.

8. MY THREE NATO COLLEAGUES HERE STRONGLY SUPPORT IDEA OF GESTURE TOWARDS NEW RULERS, WHO HAVE SHOWN SOME SIGNS OF BEING APPREHENSIVE OVER ADVERSE WEST EUROPEAN REACTION TO THEIR COUP.

THE THREE ARE URGING THAT E.C. COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON GO THROUGH
WITH HIS PROJECTED VISIT HERE NOVEMBER 11, AND THEY ARE ENCOURAGING
WORK OF MIXED COMMISSIONS AND ARRIVAL OF NEW EXPERTS AND CONSUL-
TANTS. WHILE U.S. HAS NOTHING SIMILAR IN PROSPECT, I HAVE
RECOMMENDED
THAT CONGRESSMAN DIGGS COME TO BURUNDI AS PLANNED. MEANWHILE,
WE ARE CONTINUING TO CARRY ON BUSINESS IN A NORMAL WAY WITH THE
AUTHORITIES. I ASSUME THAT DEPARTMENT WILL SEND ME INSTRUCTIONS
IF IT PREFERS THAT WE SHOW ANY RETICENCE OR OTHER DISTANCE FROM THE
NEW LEADERSHIP.
MARK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, RECOGNITION, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUJUMB00968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760413-0401
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761178/aaaacpsb.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN POLICY OF NEW BURUNDI REGIME
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006